

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**  
**5:00 PM**

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Present: J.J. Tibbetts, MD, Audrey Murphy, Harold Pfothhauer, Karen Sanchez and Susan Paulus Smith

Excused: Joe Van Deurzen, Richard Schadehald

Staff Present: Chua Xiong, Rob Gollman, Ann Steinberger, Carolyn Harvey, Kris Kovacic, Anna Destree, Jeff Oudeans, Patti Zich (minutes recorder)

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Audrey called the meeting to order.

Chua introduced Caroline Harvey who is Chua's master prepared student with the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Caroline is the graduate student that is helping Chua look at all the documents and helping her through this process with the wind turbines. Caroline will graduate May 2016.

**2. Approval / Modification of the Agenda**

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

Tibbetts / Pfothhauer

MOTION CARRIED

**3. Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2015**

MOTION: To approve the minutes

Audrey suggested "note taker" be changed to "minutes recorder."

MOTION: To approve the minutes as amended.

Pfothhauer / Tibbetts

MOTION CARRIED

**4. Presentation of evidence-based research methodology as it relates to the materials received on the Shirley Wind Farm**

Chua presented a PowerPoint presentation indicating there are several factors to consider when reviewing evidence-based research articles. It is the credibility of the journal, looking at the impact factor, prestige of the journal, the editor, and the publisher, all relative to the field or subfield of relevance to the topic. Impact Factor is a rating given to journals. The higher the score you have the more credibility you have. It looks at the strengths and limitations. For instance, if she published a research article in New England Journal of Medicine, she is going to get a rating of 54.42. If New England Journal of Medicine says your research article is not publishable and she could only get it published in the Environmental Health Perspectives she would only get a rating of 7.98. When you look at the credibility of journal articles and look at 54.42 vs. 7.98 she probably doesn't have a good rating as far as her research article. That is looking at the impact factor. The other is Scientific Rigor-how narrow, concise, and objective the design and analysis techniques are and how scrupulously the rules have been adhered to and applied to all decisions. This is how many steps are in the process and how closely you follow the process without straying away. Peer

Reviewed-Articles are written by experts in the field and are reviewed by several other experts in the field before the article is published in the journal in order to ensure the article's quality. Experts who review articles are carefully selected based on their scientific expertise, research area, and any bias toward the authors of the research article. When you are looking at these research articles you need to look at the credentials of the authors. Someone who has a PhD versus a Bachelor's Degree will have significantly more credentials. When looking at research article, the last author, the most senior person, is most important. They are usually the major professor, have more research in the specific field, and are more experienced.

Credibility of the Academic Institution is when a researcher is associated with Harvard, Yale, or Princeton for example, and you publish a research article, you are going to have more credibility with Harvard versus the University of Green Bay. In regard to the publication record of the authors, how many research articles has this person published, are they a novice, have they only published three research articles as compared to someone who has had ten plus research articles that are published. These are things that Chua is looking at and when looking at these things, it is time intensive.

Chua continued that when you have a research article that says Bona Fide meta-analysis, what they have done with the data is they have gone even further in reviewing by comparing results from previous separate studies.

Those are factors to take into consideration and when she is looking at a journal articles she is looking at the authors, the credential of the author, the association the university they are with, and is there any bias. She also looks at how the research is being conducted.

Carolyn Harvey continued with the research process itself. Scientific Evidence-Based Research follows a specific process and like any process has a set of steps and the closer you follow those set of steps the more accurate the results. In research the first step is the Literature Review. This really tells you what I am going to talk about and why I am going to talk about it. Questions to consider are how I want to talk about it, how do I answer the question, what am I going to measure, who am I going to ask, and how am I going to ask it. She gave an example about how to measure blood pressures. You gather 500 blood pressures. Those are your results. You can say these are high and these are low. That will be the discussion. The goal of a good discussion is to be able to have some kind of conclusion. These are high because, these are low because. The risk is what?

Carolyn Harvey demonstrated the standard process for evidence based research and the methods that are followed. Carolyn showed an article and reviewed the elements of a good research article starting with an abstract or introduction which is the "what" and the "why". The next element shows what you measured, where you measured it, how you measured it, and how often you measured it. Then the results which have some form of math and you'll end up with percentages and you will compare using statistics. The results are almost always displayed in the table, graph or chart. You will be able to see them, rather than read them. Then you move to discussion. Following with what the limitations were. Was there any conflicting interests and they will then display all of their references. The more references generally the more researched the topic is.

##### **5. Educational presentation and discussion on E-Cigarettes.**

Kris Kovacic stated the top 4 reasons to be concerned about e-cigarettes use are 1) E-cigarettes give off more than just "water vapor," 2) There are no specific regulations on the manufacture and sale of E-cigarettes, 3) E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA to help smokers quit, 4) E-cigarettes appeal to youth. She continued that between September 2010 and February 2014, the poison centers reported 2,405 calls related to e-cigarettes and 16,248 calls related to cigarette exposure. The researchers note that these numbers are likely to be higher, since it is possible that

not all exposures would have been reported to poison centers. The researchers found that the number of total monthly calls relating to e-cigarette poisoning increased from 0.3% to 41.7% during the study period, while the number of calls relating to conventional cigarette poisoning did not show a similar increase. Furthermore, the report reveals that more than half of these calls (51.1%) involved children aged 5 years and under. Approximately 42% of the calls involved individuals aged 20 years and over. According to the investigators, child poisoning from traditional cigarettes is usually a result of children eating them, while poisoning related to e-cigarettes involves the nicotine-containing liquid, which is ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin and eyes. Calls relating to e-cigarettes were more likely to involve reports of adverse health effects after exposure – such as vomiting, nausea and eye irritation – than calls linked to conventional cigarettes.

Lambeau Field is a smoke-free facility as required by Wisconsin State Law. This includes the Lambeau Field Atrium, Curly's Pub, stadium bowl and concourses. There are NO designated smoking areas inside Lambeau Field, nor is exit and re-entry permitted for smoking. This policy also applied to smokeless and electronic cigarettes as they are not permitted. Guests who fail to comply with this policy may be ejected or subject to a fine. The Brown County Tobacco-Free Coalition guided the Packers in drafting this policy and encouraged them to include a ban on nicotine-carrying devices; this is how the ban on e-cigarettes stands today.

Key points are: e-cigarettes aren't good for our air or our kids; e-cigarettes haven't been proven to be safe; unregulated marketing, sale and distribution are driving demand; cessation claims are unproven.

What can you do? Join Community Action for Healthy Living; write letters to the editor; educate community organizations; educate policy makers.

#### **6. Discussion on relocation of the Health Department April 2016**

Family Care moving out opened the door to the discussion of the Health Department moving to Sophie Beaumont Building. At this point the biggest concern we have is parking for our clients. We understand there will be 20 plus stalls available right next to the building for clients. As far as parking for employees, that is still under discussion. Administration and County Executive are working on that right now. At this point we have started to form a planning committee because we actually don't know what the best option is for us in that building. Erik Pritzl, who is the Executive Director of Human Services, along with his staff, the Health Department staff and Facilities. We are not sure where we are going. A question that was tossed out to Chua was regarding the square footage and how much we would be losing. She indicated we are going from roughly 11,000 square feet to about 7,800 square feet. We will be meeting with Human Services this week Thursday to look at best options for us. Jeff Oudeans stated the County Executive is looking at 350 spots that Associated Bank has downtown so we would move all the county vehicles to that location and will try to open as many spaces as possible next to the Sophie Beaumont building. We would have to share these 20 spaces with Human Services. Chua stated we may have to have meetings with our community partners in other county buildings because we will share the conference room with Human Services.

#### **7. Environmental Division Update**

Rob Gollman handed out an Odor Complaint Data sheet. He stated we have seen a significant decrease in complaints overall. Particularly at the Sanimax Facility, of 16 complaints registered against the facility only 5 have been verified to date so far this year.

He also handed out a graph on establishment inspections. We see monthly variation in numbers of inspections due to temporary events, vacation time off, staff training events, committee participation by staff in policy and procedure writing for the Environmental Division.

Rob was pleased to announce we are moving forward to the interview phase in our recruitment process for our public health sanitarian position. We will be conducting interviews November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. There are 8 candidates who have been selected to interview and 5 have registered for interviews.

We are having our State Assessment of our food licensing/inspection program. Representatives for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Health Services Food Safety and Recreational Licensing Division will be here October 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> evaluating the Environmental Division. They will be doing field inspections with the sanitarians and conducting a file review of our food establishment regulatory program.

#### **8. Correspondence**

All correspondence has been previously mailed to the board members.

#### **9. Director's Report**

Ann Steinberger talked about Blastomycosis and it is naturally occurring in the environment. It is the fungus grows and produces infecting spores under specific weather and soil conditions. Infection is not spread person to person. Fungal Infection caused by inhaling spores of a fungus that lives in moist soil and decaying wood and leaves. Symptoms can include cough, fever, chills, chest pain, and are present in about 50% of people infected. Incubation is 2-15 weeks and is treatable with antifungal. Wisconsin averages 80-90 per year with 61% hospitalized.

The WI DHS, Brown County Health Department and other local health departments are investigating a cluster associated with tubing on Little Wolf River with the time of exposure to be Memorial Day – Labor Day (15 weeks from Labor Day is Dec 21). Signs have been posted encouraging people to stay on the raft, not walk along shore and stay off the island. However, people are taking pictures in the mud right next to the sign. Wisconsin's cluster case count is: Confirmed - 41, Probable/Suspect – 101. We contacted all individuals who went tubing with confirmed cases (45 Blasto-related interviews by BCHD) to evaluate for signs/symptoms and refer to medical care for appropriate diagnosis and treatment

The other outbreak we have been working on is the Salmonellosis Poona associated with the imported cucumbers from Mexico. Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection that generally affects the intestinal tract and occasionally urine or the bloodstream. Salmonella is most common cause of diarrheal illness in Wisconsin. In the state we have had 40 cases and 5 have been in Brown County.

Ann stated we have a 57 year old white male diagnosed with Tuberculosis and medications started September 25, 2015. He is in isolation and we are testing his contacts. So far all contacts have come back negative.

Ann stated seasonal influenza is here and we will be doing flu prevention clinics for children 6 months through 18 years at no charge. We are able to do these clinics and not screen for insurance because it is part of a preparedness functional exercise. Any remaining flu vaccine will be available at regular immunization appointments. During the 2014-2015 flu season the Brown

County Health Department followed up on 136 hospital associated influenza and 36 Influenza like illness outbreaks in long term care agencies.

Ann reported that viral meningitis is not a reportable disease and is most common type of meningitis and not to be confused with bacterial meningitis. About 90% are caused by common intestinal viruses called enteroviruses. People usually recover completely from viral meningitis. Transmission is through fecal-oral or contact with respiratory secretions. In regard to prevention, good health habits such as washing hands, avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth, cover cough or sneeze and staying home when ill.

10. **All Other Business Authorized by Law** – Chua asked the Board of Health if the minutes of each meeting could be posted on the web prior to approval. Susan indicated a draft could be posted as long as it says it is a draft. Dr. Tibbetts and Audrey Murphy agreed.

**11. Adjournment / Next Meeting Schedule**

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 6:20 PM

Tibbetts / Paulus Smith

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 15, 2015 at 5:00 PM